THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The recommendation of the Central Board of Trustees (Employees' Provident Fund) has not yet been received by the Government. As such, no investment is being made in equities.

(c) The Employees' Representatives are against any reduction in the existing rate of interest. The rate of interest for the year 2006-07 is, however, yet to be recommended by the Board.

Special salary to employees of EPFO

1750. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government issued orders in 2003 for special salary to Accounts related offices, but the benefits were not extended to employees of Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), though they deal with accounts;

(b) if so, the resons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase salaries of employees of EPFO, on par with these of other Accounts-related Government offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government of India issued orders dated 28.02.2003 for upgradation of pay scales of Organized Accounts Cadres. The benefit was not extended to any Accounts post not belonging to one of the Organized Accounts Cadres. Employees' Provident Fund Organization is not having any Organized Accounts Cadre post.

(c) and (d) A proposal to increase salaries of employees of EPFO on par with those of Accounts related Government offices is being examined in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Success of Indus project

1751. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the magnitude of child labour population in different States, as per the latest available data;

(b) how far the INDUS Project has been successful in addressing this problem in the different States; and

(c) how far the INDUS Project has been successful in addressing the problem of Child Labour in five States, where it is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Census conducted by the Registrar General of India is the only authentic data in respect of number of child labour in the country. As per Census 2001, the number of child labourers in the country is 1.26 crore. The State-wise magnitude of child labour population is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Indus Project jointly launched by Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India and the US Department of Labour, aims at ensuring elimination of child labour from identified industries, an identified districts through effective convergence with the Department of Education. The Indus Project is being implemented in 21 districts of 5 States of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

In 2006-07, 13,479 children in the age group of 5-8 years have been mainstreamed in Government schools and 13756 children in the age group of 9-13 years were mainstreamed from Transitional Education Centres to formal schooling system. So far, 42,888 children have been enrolled in the Transitional Education Centres for Child Labour. Besides, 11909 adolescents have been enrolled in Vocational Training Programmes.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of Working Children (in the age group of 5-14 *years) according to* 2001 *Census*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of working children
1	Andhra Pradesh	136339
2	Assam	351416
3	Bihar	1117500
4	Gujarat	485530

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of working children
5	Haryana	253491
6	Himachal Pradesh	107774
7	Jammu & Kashmir	175630
8	Karnataka	822615
9	Kerala	26156
10	Madhya Pradesh	1065259
11	Maharashtra	764075
12	Chhattisgarh	364572
13	Manipur	28836
14	Meghalaya	53940
15	Jharkhand	407200
16	Uttaranchal	70183
17	Nagaland	45874
18	Orissa	377594
19	Punjab	177268
20	Rajasthan	1262570
21	Sikkim	16457
22	Tamil Nadu	418801
23	Tripura	21756
24	Uttar Pradesh	1927997
25	West engal	857087
26	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1960
27	Arunachal Pradesh	18482
28	Chandigarh	3779
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4274
30	Delhi	41899
31	Daman and Diu	729

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of working children
32	Goa	4138
33	Lakshadweep	27
34	Mizoram	26265
35	Pondicherry	1904
	TOTAL :	12666377

Verification Committee of Trade Unions

1752. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports, announcing the results of verification of membership of central trade unions;

(b) if so, whether Verification Committee of trade unions was convened prior to publication of the report;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-denial by Government about the report; and

(d) whether Government would enquire how the information has leaked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Some newspapers have reported about the general outcome of the ongoing exercise of general verification.

(b) The result of general verification has not been finalized as yet. Before finalization of result, the objections of the Central Trade Unions will be invited. Earlier, meetings of Standing Committee were convened on 30.9.2003, 5.1.2004,8.3.2004, 31.5.2005, 14.7.2004, 15.12.2004, 15.4.2005 and 22.2.2006.

(c) The result of verification reported by newspapers are general in nature, based on the assessment/speculation or information from any other sources. As the result is yet to be finalized, no necessity for denial was felt.